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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH for the Year 1950

Orphans Printing Press, Church Street, Leominster.

Staff of the Public Health Department

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	L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Commenced duties on 29th Jan., 1951).
Clerk	G. PROSSER.
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Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

The incidence of infectious disease remains satisfactory except for a small outbreak of Measles which affected the 4 to 10 years age group and occurred almost entirely in the second quarter of the year. Scarlet Fever remained at a very low ebb and there were no cases of Poliomyelitis.

Diphtheria Immunisation statistics for the country show that over nine million children in England and Wales have now been immunised against diphtheria during the last 10 years. As a consequence, the annual deaths have been reduced from 2,800 to about 95 and cases from 55,000 to less than 2,000 for the country.

A drop of 27,000 immunisations during the first half of 1950 coupled with the observation that because of the vast reduction in diphtheria parents become less alive to the dangers of the disease, prove that renewed efforts must be made to sustain the campaign if valuable ground is not to be lost.

The water supply remains very good and from twelve samples submitted all were found satisfactory.

The provision of houses is a problem that should continue to receive the earnest consideration of the Council. That good housing is a vital factor in improving the health and social welfare of the population is now well known and with the advent of further possible dwellings in the coming year, some of these local problems will be ameliorated.

In conclusion, I am grateful to Mr. Maxwell, your Sanitary Inspector, for the interest and help he has extended to me.

L. N. GOULD.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	213
Population	1,780
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to the Rate Books	511
Rateable Value	£9,310
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£37 9 9

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:—

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate) ...	27	19	8
	(Illegitimate) ...	1	1	—
	TOTAL ...	28		
STILL BIRTHS	(Legitimate) ...	2	1	1
	(Illegitimate) ...	—		
	TOTAL ...	2	1	1
DEATHS		20	13	7
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES		—		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	(Legitimate) ...	2	1	1
	(Illegitimate) ...	—	—	—

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	15.7
Birth rate for England and Wales	15.8
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	1.12
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	0.37
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	11.2
Death rate for England and Wales	11.6
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	71.4
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	29.8

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory. Since the end of the year the Laboratory has moved from the County Offices to new premises at the County Hospital, Hereford.

CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: On alternate Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Since the end of the year, this Clinic has been moved from Frome Bank to the Church Hall, Bromyard.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Speech Therapy, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. A. A. Maxwell, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLIES

The source of the supply for the Urban Area is at Buckenhill where the flow of six shallow wells is collected and conveyed by gravitation to the Three Mills Pumping Station. The supply during the year has not shown much variation despite the long periods of drought, but the supply of two other existing springs should be connected to the existing supply. At present the supply is conveyed in glazed earthenware pipes from the springs to the pumping station and these pipes require to be replaced to stop any leaks or contamination that may occur. Chlorination of the supply is carried out at the pumping station before the water is pumped to the reservoirs in The Knapp and at Flaggoners Green which hold 100,000 gallons and 40,000 gallons respectively. Bacteriological examination of the supply showed the same to be satisfactory, and this is checked by routine samples. The town has now no stand pipes in the streets and every house has water on the premises. Whilst the supply for the area is adequate, the average consumption per head is excessive, being approximately 35 gallons. More economy is needed, and the installation of larger storage. Ministry approval has been received for installation of an automatic pumping plant.

The Urban Council supplies water to six farms and eleven houses in the Rural Area.

WATER SAMPLES

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination:—

(a)	Satisfactory	12
(b)	Unsatisfactory	Nil

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Steps are being taken to treat the untreated sewage at Forburries and it is hoped that a purification plant will be installed with the coming year. The other outfalls at Kirkham and Sherford are also to be dealt with in the scheme which is being carried out with revenue and no application is being made for a Ministry grant. Regional Officers of the Ministry have approved the project, which will eliminate the pollution attributable to the Town.

A scheme is also prepared for dealing with storm water from parts of the Rural District that flows into the Urban area.

INSPECTION OF DRAINAGE, ETC.

Smoke, colour and water tests ...	18
New drains	10

REFUSE COLLECTION

This work is done by Contract and before the end of the year a new Contractor was appointed and it is pleasing to report that the number of complaints of intermittent collections have practically ceased. The method of disposal is tipping at "Three Mills," but the unauthorised tipping by persons outside the Urban area has caused concern, and steps have been taken to prohibit unauthorized tipping.

RODENT CONTROL

The sewers and refuse tip have been regularly treated and the Local Authority are setting a good example by disinfesting their property.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number on Register	9
Inspections	21
Defects found	4
Remedied	4
Referred by H.M. Inspector ...	1

CAMPING SITES

There is one camping site registered within the area.

VERMIN

Two houses were disinfested during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Visits to dairies and premises selling food for human consumption ...	72
Milk Samples taken	4
Informal Notices for defects or cleanliness	2

Meat is inspected at Hereford Abattoir and sent to the town, whilst the transport and handling of the meat meets with no complaint, the quality issued cannot be termed as "prime."

ICE CREAM

Six premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

3 stone	Cod	Putrified.
7 lbs.	Kippers	Putrified.
10 stone	Soft Fruit	Decomposed.
193 Tins (approx. 98 lbs.)	Various Goods	Blown, damaged or rusty tins.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The number of houses erected by the Local Authority or Private Enterprise during the year — Nil.

BANNUT TREE SITE. This housing programme has not yet reached the stage where tenders or definite progress can be said to have been made.

The situation of the Aged is still a problem but the Council have decided in future housing schemes to make provision for this type of resident.

Repairs to the privately owned property has caused some difficulties but the landlords have responded excellently and in no cases were Formal or Statutory Action required.

The Council-Owned property has been a serious problem during the year owing to defective materials and workmanship in the pre-1939 houses and the post-war houses. It is almost unbelievable that every one of the post-war houses completed only two years ago are in need of some sort of repair. A petition from sixteen tenants for better cookers and heating facilities was received by the Council who consulted the Ministry of Fuel on the Back-to-Back Grates installed and after receiving the report, have decided to install new heating and cooking appliances.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	44
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	61
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	12

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs	16
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	Nil

SECTION E.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices	72
Ditto complied with	58
Letters sent out	89
Complaints received	4
Complaints confirmed	1
Nuisances found	2

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

Total number of inspections	160
Total number of Re-inspections made	187

	Inspections
DWELLING HOUSES	
Ordinary	51
Infectious Disease	3
Housing Act, Overcrowding	1
Prospective Council House Tenants	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES	
Water Closets	4
Privies	—
REFUSE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL	
Ashpits	—
Ashbins	17
Tips	52
DRAINS	
Inspections	21
Smoke and Water Tests	18
SEWERS, ETC.	
Sewers	31
FOOD STORAGE AND PREPARATION	
Bakehouses	17
Butchers' Shops	44
Fish Frying Premises	12
Ice Cream Premises	10

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient														
	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—6	6—7	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles ...	—	5	4	7	9	14	13	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	63
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (*i.e.* at any time since 1st January, 1936).

Age at 31. 12 50	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15	Estimated Mid-Year child population, 1950 Under 5	5-14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1950	49	48	47	46	41-45	36-40				
	—	16	22	39	24	134	155	390	172	296	468

These figures indicate that 58.7% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 60.3% at the end of 1949. 97.6% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 96.9% at the end of the previous year. To sum up, 83.3% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 83.2% for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1950, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of five males and eight females who normally reside within the district.

During the year, five new cases were notified, three on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred.

The following figures give a comparison of the number of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in each of the Local Authority districts in Northern Herefordshire:—

	Prevalence of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Bromyard Urban	7.3
Bromyard Rural	4.9
Kington Urban	9.6
Kington Rural	9.1
Leominster Borough	7.0
Leominster & Wigmore Rural ...	7.0
Weobley Rural	10.1

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	—	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	1	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17.—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	—	2	2
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	1	—	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	4	—	4
21. Other circulatory disease ...	1	—	1
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis	—	—	—
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	—	2	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	1	—	1
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ...			20